

New Resources May 2019

Date: 2019-06-05

Cohick, Lynn H. *Romans*. Abingdon Press, 2011.

Summary: Journey inside the pages of Scripture to meet a personal God who enters individual lives and begins a creative work from the inside out. Shaped with the individual in mind, Immersion encourages simultaneous engagement both with the Word of God and with the God of the Word to become a new creation in Christ. Immersion, inspired by a fresh translation--the Common English Bible--stands firmly on Scripture and helps readers explore the emotional, spiritual, and intellectual needs of their personal faith. More importantly, they'll be able to discover God's revelation through readings and reflections.
--Cokesbury

DiFelice, Bekah. *Almost There: Searching for Home in a Life on the Move*. NavPress, 2017.

Summary: Home, by definition, is where you feel comfortable, where you are established, where relationships are worn in and familiar. It is where you are known, a place to belong. It is a universal longing, but an elusive destination. Why does life often move us far from this secure, primal comfort? We transfer to different locations or simply live unsettled in our own hometown. We rebuild, make new friends, find new jobs, and forge new ties. Our blanket of security becomes a whole host of unknowns. Underneath it all, sure as the evening Taps, there is a homesickness for belonging. What if this homesickness is not just a series of challenges to be overcome, but a vehicle for God to draw us to Himself? What if God is orchestrating our circumstances to bring us into the knowledge of who He is? What if all along He is inviting us home? Is it possible to build a home in a life that marches to the cadence of constant change and transition? Bekah DiFelice, a military wife familiar with the impermanence of home, offers encouragement and wisdom to those who struggle with a search for belonging in a world where home is constantly shifting. God, the grand home builder with an eternal guarantee, invites us to build a home that resides in the privacy of our hearts, a settlement that is fundamentally immovable. If we put roots down in a God who is unchangeable, He promises to be a steady anchor in the unpredictability of life.

Content Notes:

- Introduction: Adrift -- Gila Bend: On leaving home -- Empty rooms: On moving in -- When I stopped running: On legacy and identity -- Steadfast: On marriage -- The front door: On fear -- Making room: On homecoming -- The rickety table: On building community -- The most homesick day: On

church -- Almost there: On faith and doubt -- Where our parents left off: On the pull to move back -- Outpost: On hospitality -- Never a native: On life on the move.

Feinberg, Margaret. *Scouting the Divine: My Search for God in Wine, Wool, and Wild Honey*. Zondervan, 2009.

Summary: The Bible is full of clever plots and compelling stories, laced with historic insights and literary beauty. Despite its richness and depth, many of us struggle to close the gap between the ancient world and our own. What does it mean to know that Jesus is the Good Shepherd when the only place you've encountered sheep is at a petting zoo? How can you understand the promise of a land overflowing with honey when you buy yours in a bear-shaped bottle? Can you grasp the urgency of Jesus' invitation to abide in the vine when you shop for grapes at a local grocery store? Popular author and speaker Margaret Feinberg invites you to accompany her on the spiritual adventure of a lifetime. Explore how ancient livelihoods illuminate meaningful Christian truths that apply to life today. Spend time with a shepherdess, farmer, beekeeper, and vintner who each bring fresh insights to familiar Scriptures. Scout the divine and move from just reading the Bible to entering stories that can be touched, tasted, heard, seen, smelled, and savored. --Zondervan

Kalas, J. Ellsworth. *Grace in a Tree Stump: Old Testament Stories of God's love*. Westminster John Knox Press, 2005.

Summary: Christians often assume too sharp a distinction between the Old and New Testaments, argues preacher, author, and teacher J. Ellsworth Kalas. They are too quick to view the Old Testament as a strict book of laws and commandments and the New Testament as a witness to grace. The God of the Old Testament is misperceived as a God of wrath and judgment, while the God of the New Testament is viewed as a God of love and mercy. This book will help laypeople see that grace has always been part of the character of God and that the Old Testament demonstrates that fact in a variety of ways. The character of God has not changed, says Kalas. In exploring various Old Testament texts, he helps us understand this more clearly. -- Westminster John Knox Press

Kimmel, Tim. *Grace-Based Parenting: Set Your Family Free*. W Pub. Group, 2004.

Summary: Parents in our post-modern world tend to be committed to but anxious about their child-rearing responsibilities. They've tried the countless parenting books on the market, but many of these are strident, fear-based books that loving parents instinctively reject, while still searching for direction. Now Dr. Tim Kimmel, founder of Family

Matters ministries, offers a refreshing new look at parenting. Rejecting rigid rules and checklists that don't work, Dr. Kimmel recommends a parenting style that mirrors God's love, reflects His forgiveness, and displaces fear as a motivator for behavior. As we embrace the grace God offers, we begin to give it-creating a solid foundation for growing morally strong and spiritually motivated children. Releasing in an affordable trade paper edition, this revolutionary book presents a whole new way to nurture a healthy family. --Thomas Nelson

Metzger, Bruce M. *Breaking the Code DVD: Understanding the Book of Revelation*.

Summary: Although many Christians find the Book of Revelation to be full of great beauty and comfort, others find this part of the Bible bizarre, bewildering, and sometimes frightening. Bruce M. Metzger provides one of the most important and trustworthy guides of Revelation, and now it includes findings from the most current biblical research. In *Breaking the Code Revised Edition*, you'll still find Metzger's rich content and insights presented in his approachable, non-academic style, but now with additional teaching from New Testament scholar David deSilva. This edition may be used as a stand-alone resource or as part of a six-week group study when combined with the revised editions of the DVD and Leader Guide. The six-session DVD features David deSilva guiding participants through the study. Each video segment is approximately 10–12 minutes in length and, when combined with the six book chapters, make an ideal six-week group study. All videos sessions are closed captioned.
--Cokesbury

Content Notes:

- 1. John's Vision (9:55) -- 2. Letters to Churches (10:18) -- 3. God, the Lamb, and Seven Seals (8:56) -- 4. The Dragon, the Beasts, and Seven Trumpets (8:21) -- 5. Babylon and Seven Bowls (8:34) -- 6. New Heaven and New Earth (8:56) -- Bonus Videos: Archaeology of Revelation.

Metzger, Bruce M. *Breaking the Code Leader Guide: Understanding the Book of Revelation*.

Summary: Although many Christians find the Book of Revelation to be full of great beauty and comfort, others find this part of the Bible bizarre, bewildering, and sometimes frightening. Bruce M. Metzger provides one of the most important and trustworthy guides of Revelation, and now it includes findings from the most current biblical research. In *Breaking the Code Revised Edition*, you'll still find Metzger's rich content and insights presented in his approachable, non-academic style, but now with additional teaching from New Testament scholar David deSilva. This edition may be used as a stand-alone resource or as part of a six-week group study when combined

with the revised editions of the DVD and Leader Guide. The Leader Guide contains everything needed to guide a group through the six-week study using the DVD and book, including session plans, activities, and discussion questions, as well as multiple format options. It also includes alternatives for adapting the study to 4 or 8 weeks to fit your group's needs. --Cokesbury

Content Notes:

- To the Leader -- 1. Introduction and John's Vision -- 2. Letters to Churches -- 3. God, the Lamb, and Seven Seals -- 4. The Dragon, the Beasts, and Seven Trumpets -- 5. Babylon and Seven Bowls -- 6. New Heaven and New Earth.

Metzger, Bruce M. *Breaking the Code: Understanding the Book of Revelation*.

Summary: Although many Christians find the Book of Revelation to be full of great beauty and comfort, others find this part of the Bible bizarre, bewildering, and sometimes frightening. Bruce M. Metzger provides one of the most important and trustworthy guides of Revelation, and now it includes findings from the most current biblical research. In *Breaking the Code Revised Edition*, you'll still find Metzger's rich content and insights presented in his approachable, non-academic style, but now with additional teaching from New Testament scholar David deSilva. This edition may be used as a stand-alone resource or as part of a six-week group study when combined with the revised editions of the DVD and Leader Guide. --Cokesbury

Richardson, Ronald W. *Becoming a Healthier Pastor: Family Systems Theory and the Pastor's Own Family*. Fortress Press, 2005.

Summary: Among the most helpful and widely acclaimed resources for addressing church conflict and the quality of church life is Richardson's groundbreaking volume *Creating a Healthier Church* (Fortress Press, 1996). His application of family systems theory to congregational life has enormously clarified its operative systems and especially its emotional system. In this sequel, Richardson employs the same methodology to address the roots of personal issues that may hinder pastors' ability to function effectively as leaders within their congregations, and may in fact cause them deep difficulties. He especially addresses pastors' own families of origin, a major but often hidden component in how they function emotionally in their congregations. When anxiety arises, unresolved familial issues and old family patterns return, often unhelpfully. Richardson explores these patterns, how they operate in church situations, and how pastors can do their own family-of-origin assessment. His volume will become a standard tool for analysis of patterns in ministerial behavior and developing strong personal effectiveness. --Fortress Press

Willimon, William H. *Why Jesus?*. Abingdon Press, 2010.

Summary: No figure in history has received more attention, and been less understood, than Jesus of Nazareth. Much of what has been written recently portrays Jesus as a vaguely kind and friendly person whose message sometimes pleases but never challenges believers. People might even be tempted to ask "Why all the fuss? What here is worth devoting my life to?" Very little about that Jesus is worth it, says Will Willimon. Yet there is another Jesus, the mysterious preacher from Nazareth who continues to invite men and women to claim the true meaning of their lives by giving their lives away in service to God and others. This Jesus continues to fascinate and compel us, in spite of all the attempts to domesticate his message and put distance between us and the call to follow. In his radical teachings, his self-sacrificial death, and his liberating life beyond death, this Jesus teaches and shows us the true meaning and purpose of our own lives. --Abingdon Press

Content Notes:

- Vagabond -- Peacemaker -- Storyteller -- Party person -- Preacher -- Magician -- Home wrecker -- Savior -- Sovereign -- Lover -- Delegator -- Body.

Zeh, Katey. *Women Rise Up: Sacred Stories of Resistance for Today's Revolution*.

The FAR Press, 2019.

Summary: Sarah and Hagar are caught in the crossfire of human trafficking. Ruth and Naomi are migrant farm workers who labor across lines of difference. Mary crosses borders during an unplanned pregnancy to give birth. These may sound like headlines ripped from our round-the-clock news, but in fact they're a timely take on the tenacious women of the bible from gender justice advocate and ordained Baptist pastor, Rev. Katey Zeh in *Women Rise Up: Sacred Stories of Resistance for Today's Revolution*. "I thought I knew the sacred stories well. As it turns out, I knew only certain stories. Men's stories, to be exact," Zeh writes in the introduction of her new book. Raised by her grandma "Honey" with a deep love of the church and a hearty belief in women's worth, Zeh brings an activist sensibility to her reading of biblical stories—like Rachel's maternal mortality or Martha's domestic advocacy—to inspire modern women and their allies to rise up in the face of injustices near and far. In a time where Christians the world over are using their sacred scriptures to shame survivors, vilify immigrants, and excuse violence, *Women Rise Up* offers an alternative witness for readers, students, leaders, and pastors who love their faith but can no longer abide its misuse in today's revolution. --The FAR Press

Watershed Discipleship: Reinhabiting Bioregional Faith and Practice. Cascade

Books, 2016.

Summary: This collection introduces and explores "watershed discipleship" as a critical, contextual, and constructive approach to ecological theology and practice, and features emerging voices from a generation that has grown up under the shadow of climate catastrophe. *Watershed Discipleship* is a "triple entendre" that recognizes we are in a watershed historical moment of crisis, focuses on our intrinsically bioregional locus as followers of Jesus, and urges us to become disciples of our watersheds. Bibliographic framing essays by Myers trace his journey into a bioregionalist Christian faith and practice and offer reflections on incarnational theology, hermeneutics, and ecclesiology. The essays feature more than a dozen activists, educators, and practitioners under the age of forty, whose work and witness attest to a growing movement of resistance and reimagination across North America. This anthology overviews the bioregional paradigm and its theological and political significance for local sustainability, restorative justice, and spiritual renewal. Contributors reread both biblical texts and churchly practices (such as mission, baptism, and liturgy) through the lens of "re-place-ment." Herein is a comprehensive and engaged call for a "Transition church" that can help turn our history around toward environmental resiliency and social justice, by passionate advocates on the front lines of watershed discipleship. CONTRIBUTORS: Sasha Adkins, Jay Beck, Tevyn East, Erinn Fahey, Katerina Friesen, Matt Humphrey, Vickie Machado, Jonathan McRay, Sarah Nolan, Reyna Ortega, Dave Pritchett, Erynn Smith, Sarah Thompson, Lydia Wylie-Kellermann --Cascade Books

Nurture that is Christian. Baker Books, 2004.

Summary: Christian educators have begun to benefit from developmental psychology and to understand spiritual growth physically, intellectually, emotionally, socially, and morally. In this book, noted educators offer a clear Christian perspective on developmental theory. --Baker Academic

United Against Racism: Churches for Change. Friendship Press, 2018.

Summary: The time is NOW, as signaled by the United Nations' decade-long commitment to people of African descent. In proclaiming this decade, the international community is recognizing that people of African descent represent a distinct group whose human rights must be promoted and protected. Authentic Christianity requires the loving inclusion of all God's creation. An inclusive, beloved community is a community free from racism. *United Against Racism* is a call to an authentic Christianity, a religion that strives to become God's inclusive, beloved community. It summons Christians to pray, think, and act to end racism. This resource aims to support churches, communions, and

those who endeavor to share the journey of the Christian faith in the pursuit of an unfinished agenda to embody a more excellent way of racial equity. --Cokesbury

Clare and Francis. Ignatius Press, 2007.

Summary: A major epic feature film on the lives of St. Clare and St. Francis of Assisi shot on location in Italy by the Italian film company Lux Vide, the producers of Saint Rita, Pope John Paul II and St. John Bosco. This outstanding movie is unique among films on St. Francis because of the historical accuracy of the story and its authentic spirit of joy and piety Francis was known for, as well as the major role played by Clare who is given equal stature with Francis. The two leads are played by very appealing performers, Mary Petruolo and Ettore Bassi, who give genuinely inspiring and beautifully moving performances of the daughter of a patrician family and the son of a rich merchant who leave all to follow Christ. Francis renounces his inheritance of wealth to live the Gospel and serve the poor and outcasts. Clare reads deep into his heart and decides to follow him, leaving her home and family to give herself as the bride of Christ. Both found major religious orders and together they inspire many to follow their radical call to live the Gospel, and their impact has even reached across the centuries to change the world. --Ignatius Press

Where Do We Go From Here?: Honest Responses From Twenty-Four United

Methodist Leaders. Market Square Books, 2019.

Summary: Following the February 2019 session of The United Methodist General Conference, many United Methodists returned to their Sunday School classes, worship services and small groups, asking the same question: "Where do we go from here?" In *Where Do We Go From Here?: Honest Responses From Twenty-Four United Methodist Leaders*, bishops, pastors, lay-persons, campus ministers, students, general board directors and others share their honest responses to the question, "Where do we go from here?" Voices from the traditional, centrist and progressive viewpoints share their thoughts on where their church is and where it should go from here. Thought-provoking, inspiring and sometimes troubling, this book offers individuals and groups a place to better understand what United Methodist leaders are thinking in this crucial time. Several authors revised their material to include last-minute information concerning the Judicial Council rulings in late April. --Market Square Books

Content Notes:

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- Kevin Slimp -- Jorge Acevedo -- Sydney Bertram -- Sharon Bowers -- Wil Cantrell -- Kenneth L.

Carder -- Kenneth Carter -- Alex da Silva Souto
-- Talbot Davis -- Katie Z. Dawson -- Bob Farr --
Thomas Edward Frank -- Erin M. Hawkins --
Donald Haynes -- William B. Lawrence --
Sharma D. Lewis -- Laquaan Malachi --M.
Douglas Meeks -- Rebekah Miles -- Chris Ritter
-- Don E. Saliers -- Amy Valdez Barker -- Lacey
C. Warner -- J.J. Warren.